



## TOLL OF TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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### Tobacco Use in the USA

- High school students who are current (past month) smokers: 23.0% or 3.5+ million [Boys: 22.9% Girls: 23.0%]
- High school males who currently use smokeless tobacco: 13.6% [Girls: 2.2%]
- Kids (under 18) who try smoking for the first time each day: 4,000
- Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each day: 1,000+
- Kids exposed to secondhand smoke at home: 15.5 million
- Workplaces that have smoke-free policies: 68.6%
- Packs of cigarettes consumed by kids each year: 800 million (roughly \$2.0 billion per year in sales revenue)
- Adults in the USA who smoke: 20.9% or about 45 million [Men: 23.9% Women: 18.1%]

### Deaths & Disease in the USA from Tobacco Use

- People who die each year from their own cigarette smoking: 400,000
- People who die each year from others' smoking (secondhand smoke & pregnancy smoking): 38,000 to 67,500
- Kids under 18 alive today who will ultimately die from smoking (unless smoking rates decline): 6,000,000+
- People in the USA who currently suffer from smoking-caused illness: 8.6 million

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined, with thousands more dying from spit tobacco use. Of the roughly 416,000 kids who become new regular, daily smokers each year, almost a third will ultimately die from it. In addition, smokers lose an average of 13 to 14 years of life because of their smoking.

### Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in the USA

Total annual public and private **health care** expenditures caused by smoking: **\$96.7 billion**

- Annual Federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: **\$30.9 billion**  
[Federal share: \$17.6 billion per year. States share: \$13.3 billion]
- Federal government smoking-caused Medicare expenditures each year: **\$27.4 billion**
- Other federal government tobacco-caused healthcare costs (e.g. through VA health care): **\$9.6 billion**
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: **\$4.98 billion**

Additional smoking-caused health costs caused by tobacco use include annual expenditures for health and developmental problems of infants and children caused by mothers smoking or being exposed to second-hand smoke during pregnancy or by kids being exposed to parents smoking after birth (at least \$1.4 to \$4.0 billion). Also not included above are costs from smokeless or spit tobacco use, adult secondhand smoke exposure, or pipe/cigar smoking.

**Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: \$97.6 billion**

[Only includes costs from productive work lives shortened by smoking-caused death. Not included: costs from smoking-caused disability during work lives, smoking-caused sick days, or smoking-caused productivity declines when on the job.]

**Annual expenditures through Social Security Survivors Insurance for the more than 300,000 kids who have lost at least one parent from a smoking-caused death: \$2.6 billion**

Other non-healthcare costs from tobacco use include residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (about \$400 million per year) and tobacco-related cleaning & maintenance (\$4 billion, commercial only).

- Taxpayers yearly fed/state tax burden from smoking-caused gov't spending: **\$70.7 billion (\$630 per household)**
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in USA (low estimate): **\$10.28 per pack**

### Tobacco Industry Advertising & Political Influence

- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products nationwide: **\$13.4 billion (\$36+ million each day)**

Research studies have found that kids are three times as sensitive to tobacco advertising than adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure; and that a third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company advertising and promotion.

- Annual tobacco industry contributions to federal candidates, political parties, and PACS: **Over \$3 million**
- Annual tobacco industry expenditures lobbying Congress: **Over \$20 million**

Tobacco companies also spend enormous amounts to influence state and local politics; and, when threatened by the federal McCain tobacco control bill in 1998, spent more than \$125 million in direct and grassroots lobbying to defeat it. Since 1998, Altria (Philip Morris) has spent more on lobbying Congress than any other business.





## THE TOLL OF TOBACCO IN VERMONT

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### Tobacco Use in Vermont

- High school students who smoke: 17.9% [Girls: 17.8% Boys: 18.0%]
- High school males who use smokeless tobacco: 13.1%
- Kids (under 18) who try cigarettes for the first time each year: 2,700
- Additional Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each year: 700
- Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by kids in Vermont each year: 1.3 million
- Kids exposed to second hand smoke at home: 42,000
- Adults in Vermont who smoke: 18.0% [Men: 19.4% Women: 16.8% Pregnant Females: 20.1%]

Nationwide, youth smoking has declined significantly since the mid-1990s, but that decline appears to have slowed or even reversed. The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that the percentage of high school students reporting that they have smoked cigarettes in the past month increased to 23 percent in 2005 from 21.9 percent in 2003. Adult smoking has been decreasing gradually over the last several decades, and 20.9 percent of U.S. adults (about 45 million) currently smoke.

### Deaths in Vermont From Smoking

- Adults who die each year in Vermont from their own smoking: 900
- Annual deaths in state from others' smoking (secondhand smoke & pregnancy smoking): 70 to 120
- Vermont kids who have lost at least one parent to a smoking-caused death: 500
- Kids alive in state today who will ultimately die from smoking: 12,000 (given current smoking levels)

Smoking, alone, kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. For every person in Vermont who dies from smoking approximately 20 more state residents are suffering from serious smoking-caused disease and disability, or other tobacco-caused health problems.

### Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in Vermont

- Annual health care expenditures in the State directly caused by tobacco use: \$233 million
- Annual health care expenditures in Vermont from secondhand smoke exposure: \$9.2 million
  - State Medicaid program's total health expenditures caused by tobacco use: \$72.0 million
- Citizens' state/federal taxes to cover smoking-caused gov't costs: \$157.2 million (\$632/household)
- Smoking-caused productivity losses in Vermont: \$197 million
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in Vermont: \$10.05

The productivity loss amount, above, is from smoking-death-shortened work lives, alone. Additional work productivity losses totaling in the tens of billions nationwide come from smoking-caused work absences, on-the-job performance declines, and disability during otherwise productive work lives. Other non-health costs caused by tobacco use include direct residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (about \$400 million nationwide); and the costs of extra cleaning and maintenance made necessary by tobacco smoke and tobacco-related litter (about \$4+ billion per year for commercial establishments alone).

### Tobacco Industry Advertising and Other Product Promotion

- Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditures nationwide: \$13.4 billion (\$36+ million per day)
- Estimated portion spent in Vermont each year: \$28.2 million

Published research studies have found that kids are three times more sensitive to tobacco advertising than adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure, and that one-third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company marketing.

### Vermont Government Policies Affecting The Toll of Tobacco in Vermont

- Annual State tobacco prevention spending from tobacco settlement and tax revenues: \$5.1 million [National rank: 14th (with 1 the best), based on percent of CDC recommended minimum]
- State cigarette tax per pack: \$1.79 [National rank: 10th (average state tax is \$1.04 per pack)]

*Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids / July 5, 2007*